

Force Master Chief: future of Navy voluntary education

Force Master Chief (AW/SS/SW/PJ) Michael J. McCalip's Navy service spans 28 years and includes a myriad of leadership positions. As the



FORCM (AW/SS/SW/PJ) McCalip

Force Master Chief for Manpower, Personnel, Education and Training (MPT&E), he serves as the senior enlisted Sailor within MPT&E. FORCM McCalip recently spoke with DANTES Special Enlisted Adviser Master Gunnery Sergeant Jim O'Keefe on the Navy's evolving human capital strategy and senior enlisted education initiative. Here are some excerpts from this interview:

Q: "How would you describe the state of the Navy's Voluntary Education today?"

A: "Voluntary Education for our Service members is a tremendously successful program and one of the enablers that helps retain Sailors in our Navy. It communicates a message of value and prepares them not

only to become better leaders and managers, but also to make the transition to corporate America or back to society as better citizens, because of their education. We want them to have the available tools to attain their educational goals. Funding will remain available to Sailors to pursue whatever educational courses or degrees they so desire. I also want to highlight that education is an investment that the Navy makes as a Service. Every Service has to program resources for education. Whether it's Navy College Program Afloat College Education (NCPACE), Tuition Assistance (TA), or advanced education vouchers, there has to be

Q: "What are your views of the relationship between developing critical thinking skills and participation in Voluntary Education?"

A: "The Joint Staff articulates this well. We must identify just what training and education deliver to the fight. To paraphrase, we've understood for a long time what training brings to the fight. For the enlisted Sailor, training prepares them for a scripted scenario. Whether it's a damage-control response to a missile hit or engaging an air target with a surface to air missile, it's a scripted scenario. What we seek to achieve through education is to prepare Sailors for the unknown. To think within this dynamic environment created by the Global War on Terrorism and the ways our enemies

"Education is an investment that the Navy makes as a Service."

– FORCM McCalip

a program of record with fiscal planning for that. When looking at our approach, we wanted to leverage the resources that we had to not only improve the Sailor, but also improve our collective war-fighting capability and critical thinking skills. We believe that education directly enhances our war-fighting capability. That's why we've pursued the path of the rating-relevant degree initiatives.

fight today. This pushes critical decision-making down to a more junior personnel level in combat. We are seeing the Army and Marine Corps do this every day. It's called urban warfare, where room-to-room judgment calls are made on rules of

(For the rest of the interview, visit http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/library/docs/sea/DIB-FEB06c-TEXTWeb.pdf)

Testing/Certification

Testing Calendar

February 2006

- 3 Excelsior Extended Response (Essay)
4 LSAT

March 2006

- 4-8 Praxis*

April 2006

- 3-8 GRE Subject *
7 Excelsior Extended Response (Essay)
29-3 May Praxis*

May 2006

- 9, 11, 16 ASE (CONUS) **
9-11 ASE (Overseas) **

June 2006

- 2 Excelsior Extended Response (Essay)
10-14 Praxis *
12 LSAT

August 2006

- 4 Excelsior Extended Response (Essay)
5-9 Praxis *

Notes:

Overseas test centers send orders six weeks before the test date. CONUS test centers send orders four weeks before the test date. Contractors ship tests to arrive just before the planned test date.

*Select only one test date from the published period for DANTES testing and specify that date on the order form.

** Deadline for ordering ASE exams is 17 March.

http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/library/docs/examinations/05-06cal.pdf

Excelsior retires examination

Effective 30 Jun 06, Excelsior College will retire the extended response examination 432, History of Nazi Germany, due to decreasing demand for the exam. For more information, contact the Excelsior College exams program at 1-888-723-0267.

GED correction

In the January 06 DIB and the FY06 DEPH GED Chapter, we reported that GEDTS would, in December 05, send DANTES test centers GED Battery Forms ID and IJ. That announcement was based on information we received from GEDTS that has now changed.

GEDTS instead sent Forms IJ & IK. If you are a GED Designated Test Center, you should have already received Forms IJ & IK from GEDTS. These are the correct forms and are valid through 31 December 2006.

For all other DANTES test centers, you may still administer GED examinations, but the GED Battery must be ordered directly from DANTES Code 20B.

ASE fees increase

The Automotive Services Excellence (ASE) test fees will increase beginning with the May 2006 administration period. Please make note of these changes:

- Registration Fee: \$32.00 (No change)
- Regular Test Fee: \$26.00 (\$1.00 increase)
- L1 and L2: Ad. Test: \$52.00 (\$2.00 increase)
- Recertification Tests: \$26.00 each (\$1.00 increase w/ \$68.00 price cap (\$3.00 increase))

We ask TCOs to post this information so Test Examiners and potential candidates who are directly affected will make the financial adjustments. Please send inquiries to certprog@voled.doded.mil or call DSN 922-1360.

ASE ordering deadline

The ASE ordering deadline for the May administrative cycle is **March 17**. Overseas locations please submit orders early so ASE/ACT receives them before or on the deadline. If you must fax, it should be a last resort. TCOs, please have candidates complete the *DANTES ASE Test Registration Form* (online) and return them to you.

Submit all registration forms along with the *ASE/ACT Examination Test Control Officer (TCO) Form*. Place the total number of registration forms that are attached to your TCO form at the bottom of the page. Find all ASE testing information on the DANTES Web site at

<http://www.dantes.doded.mil> or e-mail certprog@voled.doded.mil.

North Bend – FAA approved

The North Bend Coast Guard education center received approval by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to offer the Aviation Mechanic tests in the areas of Airframe and Powerplant. North Bend is the 10th installation education center that has met all of the FAA Airman Testing Standard's Branch requirements for administering their tests. DANTES congratulates North Bend and wishes them success in offering many requesting military members the Airframe and Powerplant tests. If TCOs want information on the FAA initiative, please send inquiries to certprog@voled.doded.mil.

How to make yourself a better counselor

1. Project an image of self-confidence.

2. Study all the reference materials and don't try to know all the answers. Just know where to go to look for answers.

3. When selecting your business wardrobe, seek to look polished and professional.

4. Be specific and concise.

5. Never allow your personal opinions to interfere, never rely on yesterday's news, and always encourage Service members.

6. Eliminate poor speech and gestures, i.e., tentative, indecisive speech; inadequate handshake; poor posture.

7. Don't make assumptions. Seek references. Once you've told a Service member something, you can't take it back, so make sure it's right the first time. This will define your credibility.

8. Get to know the individuals working in the local colleges and universities. They can provide insight into their programs and be of great help in difficult situations.

9. Say what you mean and mean what you say, and don't be mean when you say it.

10. Be positive rather than negative. Find the best in others.

11. Don't just answer a question. Engage in conversation. Often the question asked is not what the student really wants or needs.

12. Your thoughts do affect your health. Loosen up; be willing to laugh.

13. Be a team player. If another counselor has the answer, draw from each other's knowledge.

14. Don't fake answers. If you don't know, research the issue. Tell the Service member you'll find out and get back to him/her.

15. Handle negative people with grace, grit and wit.

16. Get to know those you counsel, care about their progress, and check everything, because rules and regulations are always changing.

17. Control your unhealthy emotions at work.

18. Smile, be pleasant.

19. Ask the Service member if he/she understands what you're saying.

20. Make sure the counseling session ends on a positive note. Say "Good luck in your studies" or "I hope to see you soon" or "Please contact the education center if you need more help."

21. Make accurate notes of your counseling sessions. At some point, you may have to defend what you advised versus what the Service member selected to hear.

22. Earn National Certified Counselor (NCC) status through the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC). Refer to <http://www.nbcc.org>.

23. Maintain an affiliation with a professional educational association if possible. Participate in local, regional, or national conferences. Consider joining CCME (Council of College and Military Educators), ACEG (Association for Counselors and Educators in Government), or an ACME (Advisory Council on Military Education.)

24. Direct the Service member to be self-reliable by encouraging and guiding him/her to complete those tasks within his/her area of responsibility.



Spouses to Teachers

You're a military spouse and you want to be a teacher. You transfer with your spouse from state to state, and even overseas. What state do you get your teacher's certification in? Does teacher certification transfer from state to state? Are there teacher certification programs available via distance learning? What if you're overseas? Where do you begin the process of becoming a teacher if you're a traveling military spouse?

Leslie Sheffield asked herself these questions as she packed for yet another move. The Navy spouse and fourth-grade teacher in Virginia Beach, Va., said, "Recently, I moved from Texas where I graduated with my degree in education. I was fully licensed to teach in Texas, but was on my way to Virginia. I had no idea what it took for me to teach in Virginia."

Today, thanks to Spouses to Teachers (STT), Sheffield and other military spouses can obtain their teacher licensure/certification, in spite of numerous duty stations and transfers. STT is a Department of Defense pilot project designed to assist spouses of active duty, Reserve and Guard military members to become public school teachers. Currently in 14 states, STT also provides information regarding state certification requirements; counseling and guidance on certification options; application assistance for transferring teacher certification from one state to another; financial assistance to help meet expenses for examinations required for teacher certification; and financial aid resource assistance.

Sheffield emphasized, "STT helped me step by step, and they

made my move into teaching so much easier. It was a saving grace for me."

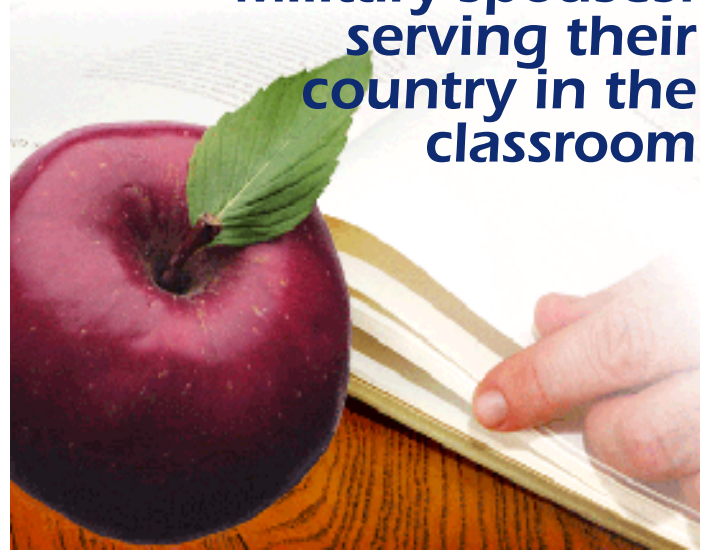
Navy spouse Veronica Sanders, an STT participant, said, "After moving every two to three years, I was unable to establish myself in any career field. Over the years, it has always been easy to obtain employment as a substitute teacher or teacher assistant. This led to my desire to become a certified teacher with the help of the Spouses to Teachers program." With her bachelor's degree in business administration, Sanders decided to teach because



Nancy Hoehn and her husband are stationed in Germany.

she enjoyed being with children. "I am happy to be part of the business of educating students, and I would like spouses to know that it is never too late to make a career change," she said. Sanders is a special education teacher in Georgia.

Military spouses: serving their country in the classroom



Overseas

Military spouses overseas have even a more difficult time trying to coordinate stateside requirements. Shannon Eaves, an Army spouse in Germany, had a hard time finding out how to take her Texas certification exams without having to return to Texas. "With the help of STT, I am now certified to teach K-12," Eaves said, "and I'm currently teaching in a Preschool Child Development classroom at the American elementary school in Schweinfurt."

Air Force wife Nancy Hoehn, Ramstein Air Base, Germany, was able to complete her exams for her initial certification while in Germany. "STT reimbursed me for the cost of my exams," Hoehn said.

Financial Assistance

STT provides limited funding to eligible spouses to reimburse the costs of tests required for state licensure/certification. The

Continued on next page

Spouses to Teachers

maximum available financial assistance is \$600 per person. The Spouses to Teachers state offices assist spouses with available financial aid at the state and federal levels also.

Sheffield said the reimbursement was a plus. "The tests are expensive and if someone is moving from state to state, those fees really add up."

Eaves is grateful for receiving reimbursement for her certification tests. "The cost of certification can be rather high, and every little bit helps when you are trying to get a job," she said.

All military spouses

Though 96 percent of STT participants are female, the opportunities are there for all military spouses. Richard Gulick, whose Navy wife is assigned to the USS George Washington, decided to teach after getting a graphic design degree. He tried substitute teaching for about a year. "All my family and friends seemed to think I'd make a good teacher. Now, I'll be teaching art in Virginia," said Gulick. "STT helped me a lot financially."

National Guard/Reservists

Dana Gardner, spouse of a Georgia National Guardsman who was activated recently, got her master's degree in education and is currently teaching special education in an elementary school in Hephzibah, Ga. "My husband told me about this program because he knew I wanted to teach," Gardner

said. "STT is a great supportive program for aspiring teachers and they have provided me with an abundance of information." Currently, only six percent of STT participants are Guard/Reserve spouses.

Military spouses are an asset

Tylee Roller, STT administrator and counselor, believes spouses are a tremendous asset to the classroom with their worldly travels, education, and desire to teach no matter where



Shannon Eaves with her students in Germany.

they are located. "Teaching is a versatile and professional career that is marketable and that complements a military family's lifestyle of frequent rotations," she said. "STT is considered one-stop shopping for the information/guidance needed to start or continue a teaching profession in a new location."

While 74 percent of military spouses in the STT program already have their baccalaureate degree, STT also works with

transfer of certification from another state and with non-degree holders seeking assistance identifying programs leading to certification.

Other states

STT is currently operating in California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, and Utah. "The exposure of Spouses to Teachers needs to be on a national level due to the future rotation of a military family to one of the participating states," said Roller. "The excitement about STT is very apparent with inquiries from spouses in the other states and from 15 different countries asking about the program's expansion to their locations."

Information

Spouses to Teachers, managed by Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES), is located at Saufley Field in Pensacola, Fla. For information visit www.spousestoteachers.com, e-mail stt@voled.doded.mil, or call (850) 452-1151.

Troops to Teacher participant wins Ohio Teacher of the Year

High school social studies teacher Eric Combs has been named the 2006 Ohio Teacher of the Year by the Ohio Department of Education.

Combs spent over 20 years with the U.S. Air Force Security Forces and trained with some of the world's most elite soldiers while living

throughout Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. Following his service in the Air Force, he entered the teaching profession through the Ohio Troops to Teacher program.

For information about Troops to Teachers, visit www.proudtoserveagain.com.

Professional growth at WW06

The *Journal of Clinical Psychology* estimates that 36 percent of those who make a New Year's resolution break or abandon it by 31 January. Have you kept your New Year's resolution? If it has fallen by the wayside or if you haven't made one yet for the New Year, consider making your own professional development a goal in 2006. Success begins with clear objectives and the process doesn't end until it is done.

Make one of your objectives to attend the premier training event of 2006 — the DoD Worldwide Education Symposium! Register today at www.ww06.com and “get

it done” in Orlando, Fla. during the week of 17-21 July.

Besides more than 60 concurrent sessions in five different tracks, there are several workshops to help counselors assist Service members with career decisions: two 1½ hour Kuder College and Career Planning workshops, a four-hour, in-depth workshop on the newly revised Strong Interest Inventory, and three four-hour Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI)® training workshops.

There is no need to register ahead of time for either the Kuder or the Strong workshops. However, participants in the MBTI training must pre-register at the same time

they register for the Symposium or use their confirmation number to go back in and modify their registration at a later date.

February's WW06 Trivia Question

He said, “I am not discouraged because every wrong attempt discarded is another step forward.”

He is also one of the historical characters at the WW06 Opening Reception, sponsored by a school of the same name. Who is he?

The answer? Be the first to send an e-mail to training@voled.doded.mil with the correct answer and earn a prize as well as points for your team at WW06!

See page 8 for more Symposium information.

New Year brings changes for ACE's Military Guide

The 2006 *Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services* is currently being distributed to military education offices and installations, colleges, universities, and other institutions that review military training for college credit. Its release marks the 60th anniversary of the American Council on Education's (ACE) management of the three-volume publication under a contract with the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES).

The 2006 *Guide* will be the last hardbound edition that ACE will publish, with the online version (<http://www.militaryguides.acenet.edu>) replacing it as the sole source for reviewing all military training that ACE continues to evaluate for college credit for the Services. It will also include a CD supplement that contains evaluated courses and occupations with exhibit dates of 1/54 through 12/89, previously published only in the 1954-89 *Guide*.

As the online *Guide* is updated daily and offers immediate search capability for all evaluated military courses and occupations, please refer to the *Guide* online for the latest available information. Individuals may contact ACE directly at (202) 939-9470 for information on the ACE military evaluation process or to review the status of courses pending evaluation. (by Diana Gross, Assistant Director, American Council on Education, AARTS and SMART Military Transcripts; editor, Military Guide)

Bookmark it today!

<http://www.militaryguides.acenet.edu>


The only on-line guide for accessing course and occupation evaluations for:

- The Army
- The Navy
- Air Force, Coast Guard, Department of Defense, and The Marine Corps.

The 2006 *Guide* will be the final hardbound edition that ACE will print.

Military Programs
202-939-9470

American Council on Education



Education success story

Senior Airman Russell Vanbremen of the 613th Contingency Response Group has had more than his share of accomplishments since his arrival at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, in October 2004. During his 15-month tour, he was inundated with advance Security Forces responsibilities. But, his military training was not the only education he wanted. Vanbremen also wanted an associate of applied science degree from the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) in criminal justice, which he obtained through off-duty education and completion of several College Level Examination Program (CLEP) tests.

He is currently pursuing a bachelor of science degree in biology through the University of Maryland.

Vanbremen was also selected during graduation ceremonies on 8 November 2005 as the Pitsenbarger Award recipient for the October 2005 graduating class. The Pitsenbarger Award provides a one-time grant of \$500 to selected top USAF enlisted personnel graduating from CCAF who plan to pursue a baccalaureate degree. The grants coincide with the CCAF graduation ceremonies held each spring and fall.

Vanbremen is transferring to Lackland Air Force Base in Texas to be an Air Force recruiter. He says that he will continue his educational pursuits with just as much verve as he did while stationed at Andersen Air Force Base. *(Submitted by Education Specialist Joseph Foster, Anderson AFB, Guam.)*



Senior Airmen Vanbremen (center) receives the Pitsenbarger Award from Colonel Michael Boera (left), Wing Commander and Chief Master Sergeant Robert Wicks, Command Chief Master Sergeant, 36 Air Expeditionary Wing, during graduation ceremonies at the Top of the Rock Club at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam.



YEARS AGO

Thirty years ago in the DANTES Information Bulletin, 1976:

– During the first part of 1976: the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI) examinations were administered in 10 occupational areas, to a total of 77 service personnel in Norfolk, Va.

– September 1976: Dr. Duane Geiken is head of the Examination and Certification Programs Division at DANTES. Before coming to DANTES in September 1974, Geiken was an education specialist for Navy Campus for Achievement.



Dr. Duane Geiken

– October 1976: The Adult Education Association will hold its 26th annual conference Nov. 17-22 in New York City. This year's conference is called the "Bicentennial Congress on Adult Education" and will provide a forum to discuss and examine issues affecting the adult education movement.

Distinguished Service Award

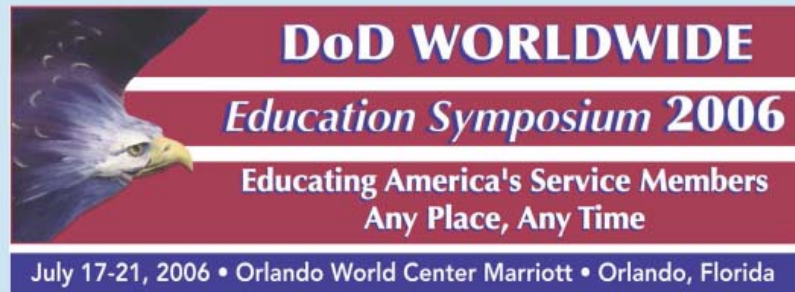
The National University Telecommunications Network (NUTN) will honor vice president of EDUCAUSE and director of the EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative, Dr. Diana G. Oblinger, with the NUTN 2006 Distinguished Service Award at its annual event in Minneapolis, Minn. on June 12.

NUTN is a national professional

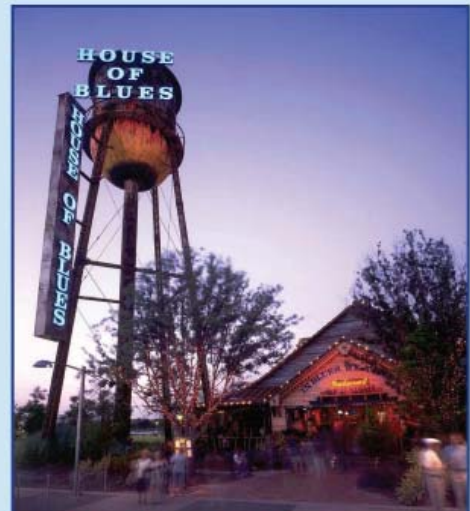
organization of institutions involved in the development and delivery of distance learning and technologies that support that effort.

EDUCAUSE is a nonprofit association whose mission is to advance higher education by promoting the intelligent use of information technology.

For details, visit www.nutn.org.



Orlando Marriott World Center 2006 Site



Closing Teambuilding Event Site

This Symposium promises to be the premier event of the year...bringing together key individuals from military, government, civilian, and academia to discuss present and future voluntary education program opportunities available to the military community.

Key learning themes to be addressed at WW06 are:

- Creating a Culture of Learning: Across the Military and Around the Globe
- Quality of Learning: Assuring Desired Outcomes for Service Members
- Access to Learning: Any Place, Any Time

General and concurrent sessions as well as workshops and special team building events are scheduled. **Keynote speakers include Elliott Masie and John Bear!**

Concurrent session tracks are Higher Education; Distance Learning; Testing, Certification and Licensure; Innovative Partnerships; and Education Services & Support.

Symposium Web site: <http://www.ww06.com>

Register today!

Distance Learning

New distance learning program manager at DANTES

Carol Thompson recently joined the DANTES staff as the Distance Learning Program Manager in the DANTES Education Programs Department. Thompson is enthusiastic about her position and strongly believes the Distance Learning Program is a unique opportunity to assist all Service members continue their education, regardless of their location.

One of Thompson's first initiatives will be to identify colleges that deliver courses on personal digital assistant (PDA) devices and encourage them to expand their offerings that would appeal to a military audience. She sees a real advantage to military members having this type of portable instructional delivery mode, since many are deployed in

situations that prevent frequent and reliable access to the Internet.

Thompson transferred from the Navy Headquarters Staff in Pensacola, Fla. where she recently held the Navy College Support Branch Head position. While with Navy Voluntary Education, she also performed as an education counselor in Rota, Spain; was the director of the Navy Campus

Office at NAS Oceana in Virginia Beach, Va.; and was head of the Navy's Contract Management Branch working with Academic Skills and the Navy's afloat NCPACE programs.

Thompson states she is delighted to join the DANTES staff and looks forward to providing information about distance learning opportunities to education counselors and Service members.

She can be reached at CML (850) 452-1085, DSN 922-1085, or e-mail dstlearn@voled.doded.mil.



DANTES new Distance Learning Manager Carol Thompson.

DANTES

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The Secretary of the Navy has determined this publication necessary in the transaction of business required by law of the Department of the Navy. Funds for printing this publication have been approved by the Navy Publications and Printing policy committee.

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